



Naturalist Notes

Winter/Spring 2020

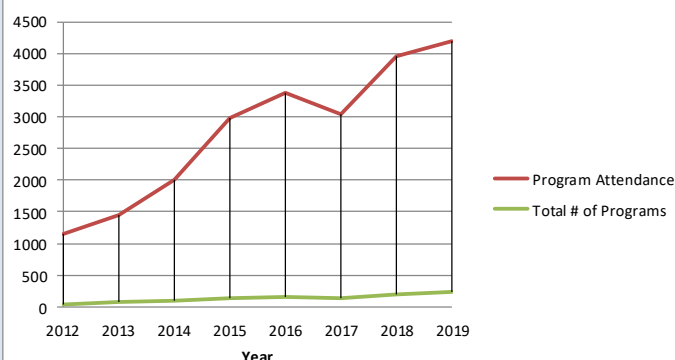


Winter Wildlife is my most popular winter program! Discuss camouflage, migration, adaptations, and hibernation.

Thank You!

I just want to start the year off by saying THANK YOU for your support! I've been your county naturalist for the last seven and a half years and most years I've hit a new record number of programs and participants. I'm hoping to make 2020 another record year! Please let me know if there's ever anything that I can do for you. All of my programs relate to standards and I'd be happy to show you which standards or even adjust or build a program to better fit your needs. Cheers to another big year!

CCCB Educational Programming



Winter Recreation Reminder!

We have various sizes of cross country skis available, but they are limited. If you'd like a program using this equipment, I'd be more than happy to bring the equipment to you, but plan on having a rotation of skiing with another program or two since I will most likely not have enough equipment for everyone at the same time. Depending on age, we can usually accommodate 10-15 students at a time. Also, given enough notice, I can provide a snowshoe program. Snowshoes will work for grades 4th and up. Outside of programming, anyone may rent skis for \$5/day (\$10 minimum).

Office Information

Cherokee Co. Conservation Board
629 River Rd
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(712)225-6709
Cherokeeccb@gmail.com
www.cherokeecountyparks.com

Sign-up for *Smoke Signals*, our quarterly electronic newsletter!



Cherokee County Conservation Board programs are:

- Hands-on and engaging
- Available year-round, indoors or outdoors, and at other locations
- For all ages
- Custom (I will make a program to fit your needs!)
- FREE!



Laura Jones, *Naturalist*
cccblaura@gmail.com



Students learning to ice fish

Jr. Naturalists

Wow! I'm so excited that this program has been integrated into schools! Right now, I visit 3 of the 4 school districts in the county. I would love to have this program countywide, so if you're from River Valley and you're reading this, shoot me an e-mail. If you know a teacher at River Valley that you think would love this program, send them an e-mail. This monthly program is geared towards children kindergarten age and under. I've been visiting TK, ECLC, and beginner-garden. This program includes a mix of hands-on activities ranging from crafts, stories, games, and the occasional song. Each month is on a different nature-themed topic and topics change annually!

Here are a couple examples of monthly topics and activities:

October: Spiders

We started out with a story, *Diary of a Spider*, then looked at spider anatomy, talked about what they ate, and built a web with yarn so we could pretend to be spiders and feel vibrations from our food on the web.

December: Nature Ornaments

We looked at tree cookies (slices of a tree branch or trunk), used magnifiers to look at the rings and count them, then each student decorated their cookie. I provided materials to those wanting to turn their cookie into Rudolph.

How to Schedule a Program

Contact me with a topic that you have in mind, your grade level, number of students, and a date. I can always stop by if you have a big event in mind or need to collaborate with other teachers. There's no way I can list every potential program topic when it comes to the outdoors, so contact me with your idea and I'll create something for you! **Laura's contact information: 712-225-6709 or cccbblaura@gmail.com**

Upcoming CCCB Events

January 26: Beginner Beekeeping

Learn basic bee biology and take a look at beekeeping equipment as our Naturalist tells you about what she's learned from the two CCCB hives. This program will take place in the CCCB office at 2:00pm.

February 22: Wild Game Appetizers

Try a few samples of wild game, learn some tips and tricks to making your own, and even be exposed to a few new kitchen tools that makes cooking wild game so much easier! Program begins at 5:00pm at the CCCB office. Registration is required by February 19. A \$5 fee will help cover the cost of some groceries.

FLOATING PROGRAMS– Scheduled when there's enough snow & weather allows.

January-March: Cross Country Skiing @ Redtail Ridge This program will be scheduled on a Sunday afternoon beginning at 1:30pm when there is enough snow on the ground to ski.

For more information, visit our Events calendar under "About Us". Program dates, locations, and content are subject to change. Check the CCCB website (www.cherokeecountyparks.com) and Facebook page for up-to-date information.